

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for managing access to a service, comprising the step of:  
(A) delegating a permission to a delegatee by a delegator, wherein said permission is represented using a digital signature;  
wherein said permission comprises authority to access the service and delegate one or more further permissions to one or more subsequent delegatees; and  
wherein at least one delegation of permission occurs over a personal area network while physical presence exists between the delegator and the delegatee.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said personal area network comprises two or more devices that transmit data by infrared light waves.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said personal area network comprises two or more devices that transmit data by digital short-range radio waves.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
(B) delegating one or more of the further permissions to said one or more subsequent delegatees via electronic mail.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the service comprises accessing content.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the service comprises actuating a device.
7. A system for managing access to a service, comprising:  
a delegation device that delegates a permission to a delegatee wherein said permission is represented using a digital signature;  
wherein said permission comprises authority to access the service and delegate one or more further permissions to one or more subsequent delegatees; and

[illegible]

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